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## Travelling allowance drawn by the hon. Ministers.

126 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state the amount of travelling allowance drawn by the hon. the Ministers from January 1923 up to the end of October last?

A.—The following figures show the total amounts of railway charges made by book adjustment plus bills drawn for actual expenses on account of each of the three hon. Ministers for the period in question:—

| | RS. | A. | P. |
|---|---|---|---|
| (1) The hon. the Raja of Panagal, Minister for Local Self-Government ... ... ... ... | 9,307 | 7 | 0 |
| (2) The hon. Sir K. V. Reddi, Minister for Development ... ... ... | 3,022 | 11 | 6 |
| (3) The hon. Mr. A. P. Patro, Minister for Education ... ... ... ... | 4,623 | 4 | 0 |

## Tree-tax.

*Tree-tax in the Trichinopoly district.*

11-30 a.m. 127 Q.—Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased—

(1) to state whether the Government would consider the desirability of reducing the tax on coconut and other trees in the Trichinopoly district as has been done in the neighbouring district of Tanjore as per G.O. No. 136, Revenue, dated 24th January 1923;

(2) to lay on the table papers showing the history of the tree-tax system in the Tanjore district;

(3) to furnish information as to the number of taxed trees in the Trichinopoly district and the annual revenue derived, or expected to be derived, therefrom, before and after the revision of tree-tax sanctioned in B.P. No. 47, dated 11th August 1921, in respect of the undermentioned trees:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Coconut, | Mango, | Illuppai and |
| Tamarind, | Jack, | Palmyra; |

(4) if the information is not available with Government, to call for it; and

(5) to state the reasons which have led to the differentiation in rates between the districts of Tanjore and Trichinopoly and also with reference to the ownership of fallen trees?

A.—(1) No.

(2) Copy of paragraph 29 of B.P. No. 305, dated 22nd January 1858, and of paragraphs 2 and 3 of Board's Resolution No. 9542, dated 17th December 1892, is laid* on the table.

* Printed as Appendix II on page 49 infra.

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(3) & (4) The Government have not the detailed information. The total tree-tax for faslis 1331 and 1332, i.e., for the years previous and subsequent to the revision was as follows :—

| | RS. |
|---|---|
| Fasli 1331 ... ... ... ... ... | 31,254 |
| Fasli 1332 ... ... ... ... ... | 74,325 |

(5) The differentiation in regard to ownership of fallen trees is due to the fact that in Tanjore there has survived an older system of taxation under which the trees planted on assessed land were taxed instead of the land on which they grow. This system has disappeared in all other districts. The same fact explains the reason why the Government lowered the rate for Tanjore.

## Village Officers.

*Village shanbhogues of South Kanara.*

128 Q.—Mr. B. MAHABALA HEGDE : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the grievances of village shanbhogues of South Kanara (karnams) have come to the notice of Government?

*A.*—The Government are not aware of the grievances of the village shanbhogues of South Kanara nor have they received any representations from them.

*Village officers whose services were dispensed with under the regrouping of villages.*

129 Q.—Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of village officers whose services were dispensed with in consequence of the regrouping of villages effected by Government during the last two years ;

(*b*) in how many cases appeals were preferred to the Collector ;

(*c*) in how many of such cases the Collector has revised the orders of the Divisional officers ;

(*d*) in how many cases appeals or revision petitions were preferred to the Board of Revenue against the orders of the Collector ; and

(*e*) in how many of such cases the Board revised the orders of the Collector ?

*A.*—Regrouping of villages is effected by the Board of Revenue with reference to the provisions of the Madras Act II of 1894 and Act III of 1895. The number of village officers and menials whose abolition the Board has sanctioned during the last two calendar years is given below, but the actual number dispensed with is not known as the process of carrying out the orders is still going on :—

| — | Karnams. | Assistant Karnams. | Headmen. | Monigars. | Vettis. | Nirgantis. | Talayaris. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ryotwari areas .. | 1,138 | 608 | 2,356 | 885 | 5,751 | 1,035 | 4,979 |
| Proprietary areas .. | 511 | 12 | 494 | 51 | 24 | 1 | 266 |